The Logger's BARK

1916 - Radio club of Tacoma - 2016

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Radio Club of Tacoma Centennial Summer Comes to a Close

The President's Corner

Dave W7UUU

As I write this on the very last day of Summer 2017, the summer of the Centennial Year for the Radio Club of Tacoma, I have to wonder if our founders looked back on their very first summer in a similar way. Of course, theirs would not have begun with Field Day as ours did (ARRL Field Day didn't begin until 1933). What a great field day it was! As reported in the June Bark, we had a terrific turnout with 26 operators and even added 160-meters this year. I often wonder what hams from 1916 would think of how their humble beginnings in radio have grown over a century to what we all enjoy today, much less operating such sophisticated radios from tents in a field!

July brought us a unique opportunity to embrace a fun piece of radio history right from inside our own Doc Spike W7OS museum. Club museum curator Rich Patrick, KR7W, was able to use the museum's complete vintage Heathkit station consisting of AT-1 transmitter, AR-3 receiver, with matching Q-Multiplier and WM-2 SWR meter to complete a nostalgic CW QSO with me, W7UUU, running a Heathkit DX-20 transmitter on my end. This was in support of the K1T special event I ran beginning July 23. Following that QSO, Bob K7MXE used a loaner (Jack K7DBU) Heathkit DX-60 transmitter with HR-10 receiver to work K1T again, this time on AM phone as well as CW. While not gear from the year of our founding, it was still a rewarding event in the context of radio history.

As is our summer tradition, August brought our annual summer picnic, held at Fort Steilacoom Park on a chilly Sunday afternoon – the eve of the Great American Solar Eclipse. Paul W7PFU cooked up some fine hotdogs and burgers, while Phil K7PIA demonstrated his Elecraft KX2 QRP rig set up on the grass. It was a very nice picnic with good turnout (46 over the course of the event). I would have to think that during our founding summer that those early members did much the same thing, perhaps even carting a spark transmitter and coherer receiver out to a park in the same spirit.

For many years, in my mind "radio summer" begins with Field Day in June and ends with the Washington State QSO Party "The Salmon Run" in September. And for as many years as this annual event is held, the HF station of the Mighty DK has participated. This year was no different. Over the course of the weekend we had 9 folks operating at W7DK racking up the points. [Ed. Note: Stats on page 7] The Salmon Run is also the club's biggest single fund raiser of the year. Members make pledges for how many of the 39 counties in the state they will work or simply make a donation. In years past, W7DK has won a number of awards in this QSO party event. Perhaps even again this year, once the scores are tabulated.

And as a salute to our future, as our Centennial comes to a close, we'll be sealing and installing the 25-year and 100-year time capsules created by Adam W2NCC. Beautifully constructed, the 25-year capsule was present at the September general meeting for members to insert items to be viewed by a future generation of member hams. Both capsules will be installed in the clubhouse, in a safe dry space in the basement, on October 15th – the final day of our centennial year. If you've not contributed any items yet (QSL card, notes, radio brochure, etc.) by all means contact Adam or a club officer to find out when the next opportunity will be to put your items in.

Despite it being one of our hottest, driest, and smokiest summers ever, it was a great summer to call our 100th. I very much believe that our founders would look upon all they created and the generations that have propelled us forward, and smile. And just maybe, in one hundred years when the second time capsule is opened, a column much like this will appear in the Loggers Bark as our future counterparts celebrate what will be a grand Bicentennial Celebration of the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Reminder: Please make note**: the October General Meeting will NOT be held at the usual location.** Due to a scheduling conflict we cannot use the library building. This is a very important meeting – floor nominations for the November officer elections. The October Meeting will be at the Eagles Club, Aerie #3, 48th and South Tacoma Way from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, all inclusive. It's a very nice place with a large meeting room, and very important that we have a good turnout for our nominations. The program and general meeting content will be curtailed a bit to fit the shorter time frame. I look forward to seeing you all there.

73
Dave
W7UUU

Dear Readers… your club receives a great deal of its income from selling ham radio equipment that others have donated. Please tell your friends, acquaintances, and family to donate unused ham radio equipment to RCT. It's tax deductable and Martha Stewart would say, "It's a good thing".

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the Loggers Bark. You'll read who they are under the "Around the Clubhouse" banner beginning on page 5. Hats Off to You!

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At the end of this year I will no longer hold the position of Bark Editor. As far as I know… the job has not been filled: If you are interested in volunteering for this position… please contact RCT Prez Dave W7UUU.

This years Salmon Run was a great time for myself and Chuck AC7QN. We operated as an "Expedition Station" that roved through six rare counties on the Eastern side of our great state. We visited the Asotin-Garfield County Line, Whitman, Columbia, and the Adams-Lincoln County Line. We worked 37 outa 39 counties– missing the most rare of them all' - Asotin and Garfield. I wonder if WW7LW needs to submit a log for other stations to count Garfield and Asotin counties in their log. Do the QSOs have to match up?

By the way- The opposite side of that green sign reads:

Entering Garfield County.

The WW7LW Expedition Station in the tailgate of KR7W's old Subaru Forester wagon. Antenna is a self resonant Fan Dipole for 80-40-20M, 30 ft high at apex.

HAMSHACK OF THE MONTH

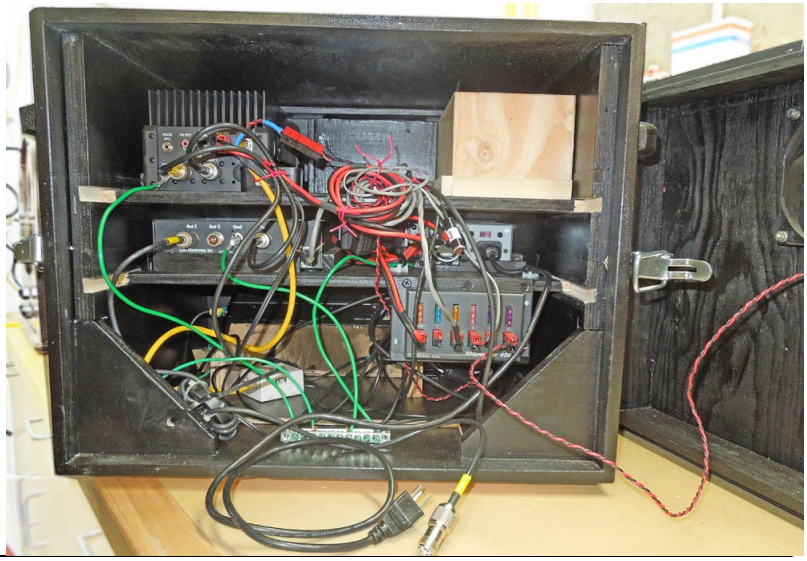
BY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Introducing the WW7LW Salmon Run Expedition station— Built in a homebrew plywood look-a-like GatorBox LINK. Top Row: Storage box for keys and mic, Amplified Speaker, KX3-PA 100 watt Linear Amp. Middle Row: 35A Power Supply, LDG-200 Antenna Tuner. Lower Row: Homebrew PC to Rig Interface for SSB and CW, KX3 radio. Headset-Mics, CW Keys and PC USB connections plug into PC-Rig Interface Box.

DIY Fake GatorBox from Rear:
Top: KX3 Linear, Storage Box
Mid: Auto Tuner, Power Supply
Bottom: Mish Mash of interconnect cables, GND Bar, Rig Runner Fuse Panel w/ Power Poles.
Rear box cover w/ exhaust fan to keep Linear Amp cool.

KX3 is on slide out shelf that pushes inward when front cover is latched on.

Please send me a photo of your hamshack.



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO

The PMT Summer Sale continues…

Team Leader RED sends in this updated list of available inventory. RED WB7EC and other PMTers will be at the Clubhouse each Saturday to assist interested buyers.

2017 RCT SUMMER SWAP MEET SELL LIST

#	Item	Listed Price
1	National NC-270 Receiver	75
4	Dentron Antenna Super Tuner	75
9	Cushcraft VFH A148-10F BEAM Antenna	**50**
11	Heathkit SB-310 HF Receiver	100
12	Astron Power Supply RS-12A	**25**
14	Astron Power Supply RS-12	25
18	WRL Globe Electronics Model 300 AM XMTR	100
22	CDE Ham 44 Rotator/controller	**100**
23	KLM/M2 Triband Yagi KT34XA– NEW in Box	1000
28	Icom IC-F410 UHF XCVR	200
29	Timewave DSP 599ZX	35
31	Heathkit HP-1175 12V Power Supply	29
36	Militar ME-9G/U Volt Ohm Meter	5
40	QTY of 4: Drake UV-3 Tri Band XCVR	250
41	Heathkit HW-29 "Sixer"	40
42	Hickok RF Signal/Sweep Generator– 292X	**40**
43	Heathkit HP-521B Audio Generator	75
44	Heathkit HM-2102 PWR/SWR Meter	20
45	Diawa CN-801 PWR/SWR Meter	100
46	Heathkit HWA-202 Power Supply	**10**
47	Sure Desk Mic	45
48	Icom MB-17A Mobile Radio Bracket	**25**
49	Icom IC-22A Handy Talkie XTAL Controlled	5
50	Archer (Radio Shack) Discharge Ignition Kit	25
51	Oregon Scientific Weather Station	50
52	Standard (Yaesu) HX-250 Marine Handy Talky	100
	Future	
	Future	
	Future	
	Future	
	Future	
	Future	
	Updated 9/20/2017	

Dateline: Sept 20, 2017, RCT Clubhouse…
MFJ-618 Audio Enhancer—Possible Group Buy from MFJ

Last month Adam W2NCC arranged a loan of the MFJ-618 Intelligibility Enhancer that is currently connected to the Lou Room HF station at the clubhouse. It's there for members to 'give it a try'. Adam reports that many folks have reported a positive difference in listening to radio signals- using this equipment. Because many members are interested in it– Adam wants to know if members would like to participate in a 'Group Buy'. Once Adam knows the quantity of buyers– he will approach MFJ to obtain a special deal for club members. Let Adam know if you'd like to buy one. Email: adambarbera@yahoo.com Adam usually at the clubhouse on Saturdays.

MFJ-618 as it sits in Lou Room

Dateline: Sept 19, 2017, RCT Clubhouse
Donate Consumable Items to the Clubhouse

This months 'fishing expedition' for items and articles for this months newsletter– netted this great suggestion from member Jack K7DBU. Jack suggests that members who come to the clubhouse bring a roll of paper towels or a roll of toilet tissue once and a while. Other possibilities to donate: Printer Paper, Dry Erase Markers, Inexpensive Pens and Pencils. Paper Napkins for the kitchen. Coffee supplies– creamer and sugar or Splenda.

Dateline: Sept 20, 2017
Membership Committee Needs Your Help

RCT needs an update on the following people. We no longer have correct addresses and/or other contact information for the following people. If you have any information on these missing persons, please contact RCT Membership, Mike Drorbaugh – W7MKE- bentneedle@comcast.net or 253-973-3433. Thank you.

Ralph Fuller - KA7FIG
RCT # 950
Lifetime Associate Member
13716 Lake City Way NE
APT 520
Seattle, WA 98125-2605

Marie Fuller – no call
RCT # 954
Lifetime Associate Member
13716 Lake City Way NE
APT 520
Seattle, WA 98125-2605

Margaret Syverson – KA7RUQ
RCT # 1331
Lifetime Full Member
C/O Madison House
12215 NE 128th ST
Kirkland, WA 98034-7383

Deanna M Jenks – KE7ING
RCT # 1458
Lifetime Full Member
6605 6th Ave
APT 8
Tacoma, WA 98406-2095

Dateline: Sept 20, 2017
W7DK's Salmon Run Report—by Randy WB4SPB

The preliminary log analysis is completed, so here are some results from the 2017 Salmon Run effort.

Conditions were very poor, and we suffered from a 20M beam that was pointing at CA and AZ. True to form, we made lots of our 20M QSOs with CA and AZ.

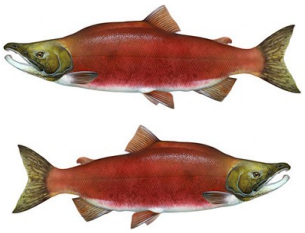
We did not get a clean sweep. We worked 38 Washington counties but missed Pend Oreille, and total QSOs were not at all on a par with last year: 512 contacts as opposed to 1213 in 2016. The number of states and provinces worked as also telling: of 57 states and provinces (other than WA), we missed 13, where last year we got all states and missed only two Canadian provinces.

We did manage to work W7DX on two modes for a bonus of 1000 points. With QSO points and multipliers, our claimed score will be 102426 (against last year's claimed score of 307072).

The disappointing outcome was not for lack of trying. The following fine operators were on the air during all but about two hours of the total contest period:

Qs by Band and Mode		
Qs	Band	Mode
1	6	SSB
1	15	SSB
4	20	DIG
42	40	CW
47	80	CW
90	40	SSB
100	80	SSB
104	20	CW
123	20	SSB

Qs by Mode	
Qs	Mode
315	SSB
193	CW
4	DIG



W7DK Operators

N7PXY (PJ)
KG7PVX (Jim)
W7XTZ (Mike #1)
AF7YD (Steve)
K7TMW (Tim)
W7XH (Mike #2)
WG7X (Gary)
W7MKE (Mike #3, who also bought pizza, twice!)
WB4SPB (Randy)

Along with the enjoyable contest effort, we had a less savory experience which nevertheless revealed the fortitude and exemplary character of several club members. Specifically, on Saturday afternoon, we had a tank fill-valve failure in the ladies' room and a simultaneous sewer backup, which brought certain activities to a halt (anything that involved running water) and got lots of people busy trying to solve the problems. Paul W7PFU replaced the faulty fill-valve, in tight quarters, contorting himself in ways scarcely imaginable. However, valiant efforts with plumbing snakes by Mike W7XTZ and Bruce WE7P failed to clear the blocked line, and we resorted to calling plumbers to see who would come out on a weekend.

The good news is that we had a bit of luck in our choice of professional expertise: Scott Romanovich of ScottCo plumbing, when told that we were calling from the Radio Club of Tacoma, asked if we were involved in ham radio? Although not licensed

himself, it turns out Scott spent a lot of time in his younger years hanging out with hams, some of whom were or still are club members. He showed up early Sunday morning and, with his assistant, promptly cleared the blocked line using impressive, high-pressure water jet technology that is the modern plumber's answer to the roto-rooter. As a bonus, Scott performed a complimentary scope analysis of the line, allowing us to determine that the problem is almost certainly caused by the large English Laurel plant that has been growing (at a suspicious rate, given the dry summer) at the northwest corner of the clubhouse, right over the sewer line. His work completed, Scott enjoyed a tour of the clubhouse, and several people who were there have an idea now who *they* are going to call next time they need a plumber.

Phase 1 of Steve AD7YD's Sewer Invading Bush Removal. Stop by and grab a shovel. WB4SPB Photo

Bruce WE7P snapped this photo of Mike W7XTZ assisting with sewer clog. Jim KE7PVZ and Paul K7PFU sidewalk supervise while "CQ Salmon Run" was transmitted from the HF stations.

The bad news is that the root infiltration is significant and cannot be permanently fixed without replacing at least a portion of the sewer line. It will be necessary to excavate and replace old concrete sections with modern pipe. Steve AF7YD has started the process of removing the laurel bush. No doubt the Board of Directors will authorize the necessary work before the sewer clogs up once more.

Dateline: Sept 20, 2107
2017 Salmon Run Fund Raiser Report— by Mike W7MKE

43 Participants pledged $3523 with $2786 paid to date. Most of the unpaid pledges need to be billed as those pledges were based on Salmon Run performance. This represents approximately a 14% participation rate for active members. You can still send in your Salmon Run Pledges!

Thanks to everyone who participated.

Dateline: Sept 20, 2017
Info on Upcoming RCT Election of Officers— by Randy WB4SPB, RCT Dept of Civics

August through November is election season at RCT. The basic schedule is:

- August - The RCT president appoints a nominating committee to find at least one candidate for each position with a new term beginning January 1 of the next year.
- September - The nominating committee present a slate of candidates, and additional candidates may step forward.
- October - Additional candidates may step forward, ballots are finalized and mailed to members, then ballots are marked and sent back by return mail (or hand-delivered to the RCT secretary).
- November - At the Annual Meeting (November 8 of this year), we count ballots received by the RCT secretary prior to the opening gavel of the meeting, and election winners are announced.
- January 1 of the next year - Newly elected officials assume the duties of office.

RCT is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of four officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and five at-large directors. These officials serve 2-year terms that are staggered so that each year we fill approximately half of these seats using an election process that is prescribed by the Radio Club of Tacoma Bylaws (http://w7dk.org/images/rct_pdf/rct_bylaws_2015.pdf), SECTION FOUR.

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Radio Club of Tacoma. The Board makes decisions about policy, activities, fund raising and spending based on information provided by officers and the various committees established by RCT bylaws or by the Board. Meetings of the Board are conducted according to standard parliamentary procedure. Any member may attend these meetings, held monthly on the first Wednesday at the Clubhouse, 7pm.

This year we elect a vice president, a secretary and three (3) at-large directors to terms beginning January 1, 2018.

Qualifications: to run for an officer seat, a candidate must have been an RCT member for two years as of the date they will take office. To run for an at-large director's seat, a candidate must have been a member for one year as of the date they will take office.

The nominating committee presented its slate of candidates at the club's general meeting in September. The slate presented September 13 is:

Vice President: **Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ**
Secretary: **Mike Finnie W7MWF**
1st at-large director: **Bruce Hanson WE7P**
2nd at-large director: **Paul Matney W7PFU**
3rd at-large director: **Bob Jamison KE7WPK**

Looky Here… Don't Miss This! Weds, Sept 27, 4th Wednesday Activity Night club meeting.

Bruce WE7P will be demonstrating the new fangled FT8 Digital Mode using the club station.

At the September and October general meetings, additional candidates may step forward. At the meeting on September 13, **Adam Barbera W2NCC** was nominated to run for at-large director, so at this writing there are four candidates for the three director seats.

At the next general meeting on October 11, you may nominate yourself or another qualified club member (with the permission of that member) for any of these positions. Your commitment is to serve for two years. All elected officials are expected to attend Board meetings. Officers have additional duties as specified in the Bylaws.

The Radio Club of Tacoma is a significant entity, with property, a cash-flow, and obligations such as taxes and maintenance in addition to its devotion to the membership's enjoyment of ham radio. To keep such an entity operating and vital requires more-than-casual involvement by a significant number of members. Please consider joining in the governance and operation of your radio club by attending Board meetings, volunteering, and running for office.

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

RADIOGRAM

CITY OF ORIGIN	STATION	NUMBER
Tacoma, WA	W7OS	074

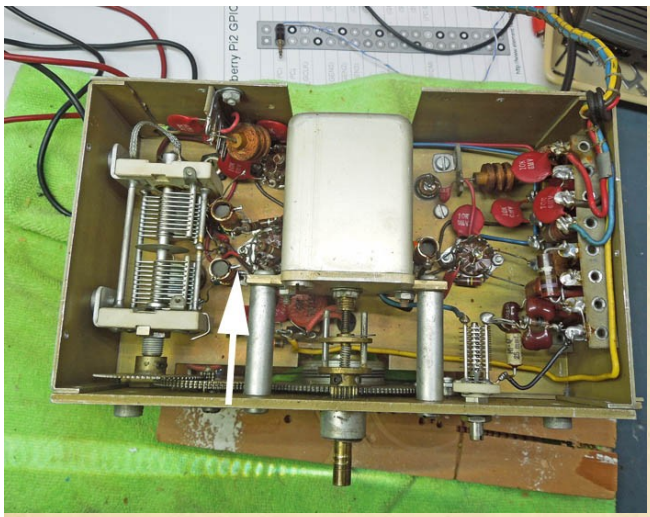
TO:- **RCT Members- Museum Report - Eldico SSB-100F Report and CX Event**

Just after Labor Day… Museum Staffers Randy WB4SBP and Rich KR7W removed the troublesome VFO module from Eldico's chassis to repair a suspected open tuning coil, L5. This was no easy feat- as the frequency/band indicator rotating drum and its mechanical linkage is in the way of VFO chassis removal. Careful loosening, nudging and protecting the fragile drum from damage resulted in successful removal.

#1: the difficult frequency/band rotating drum with moving needle indicator. #2: the Tuning O'Scope needed for SSB Tune up.

Rich KR7W took the module to his QTH to investigate the open circuit. Removal of the L5 coil resulted in its repair. De-soldering must have heated up an open circuit solder joint and fixed it. It's always annoying to have unsolved trouble mysteriously go away- as it might mysteriously return. None the less- the VFO was returned into Eldico's chassis the next day and it worked well.

Moving on to check RF output in the CW mode- using two umbilical cord connected power supplies resulted in some RF output and hearing Eldico speak to us via the Museum's R-388 Receiver. Success didn't last long- Eldico was receiving it's +800 volts from the Acme 2X807 Sky-Jammer power supply. After 10 minutes of testing– the power supply signed off with a audible "VSSSSSSST"- where one of the supply's filter capacitors vented steam and smoke into the room. Also during this testing session- before the +800V fizzed out- it was discovered that Eldico's front panel O'scope was



Inside of the VFO chassis. Arrow points to suspected bad solder joint. A few drops of Teflon bicycle lube in the tuning mechanism made VFO tuning very smooth.

burned out– an open filament.

The following Saturday, Sept 9, KR7W returned with scrounged electrolytic capacitors– possibly too high of microfarads value– but installed anyway and the Acme Power Supply was returned to service to provide umbilical +800 Volts for Eldico.

On that same Saturday Rich KR7W, and a few on-lookers watched Randy WB4SPB tune up Eldico in the CW mode. Careful tuning netted 40 watts into the RF Power Meter.

Eldico was connected to the Museum's Collins 74A4 receiver via its electronic T-R switch and then to the Tower HF Yagi Antenna. The Straight Key Century Club Morse Code Sprint was in full swing on 14.050 and Randy made two CW QSOs– a big success.

Dateline: Sept 10 & 11, 2017
W7OS Museum Competes in CW Portion of Classic Exchange (Boat Anchor Contest)
By Randy WB4SPB

On September 10 and 11, the Doc Spike W7OS Museum participated in the CW portion of the fall Classic Exchange contest. In this activity, the score is computed from the QSO count multiplied by the sum of the age of the transmitters and receivers used. This year we operated our trusty Collins 75A4 receiver along with a couple of transmitters recently acquired or refurbished by the Museum crew.

The equipment compliment:
Collins 75A4 receiver, age 60 years.
Eldico SSB100F transmitter, age 60 years.
Heathkit Cheyenne transmitter, age 56 years.

Total multiplier: 176
Total QSOs: 12
Total score in the CW portion of the event: 2112

Eldico SSB100F transmitter, minus a shorted power transformer and some other power supply components, supported by outboard HV (left) and MV/bias/filament (right) supplies. A permanent power supply is under construction.

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

RADIOGRAM

CITY OF ORIGIN	STATION	NUMBER
Tacoma, WA	W7OS	999T

TO:– **Logger's Bark Readers… a few more CX Photos**

The AM/SSB portion of the fall CX event will take place October 1-4. We hope to enter the Eldico transmitter (in SSB or AM mode) and perhaps our Heathkit Apache transmitter (AM mode only) in that activity

WB4SPB Photo

Left: Heathkit Cheyenne transmitter, with clip-lead PTT arrangement.

We have the matching Comanche receiver, but it proved too unstable and will have to wait for another CX to see use on the air.

Ed note: Heathkit Cheyene is an AM/CW mobile transmitter.

Right:

Collins 75A4 receiver, one of two workhorse Collins receivers at W7OS.

WB4SPB Photo

REC'D AT STATION W7DK PHONE GR4-1232 TIME 1900

ADDRESS 1248 S Washington St, Tacoma, Wash DATE 5/1/55

This Message was transmitted free of charge by Amateur Radio Stations of the American Radio Relay League. Answer will be sent free by filing at this station.

FORM 4 PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Club Meeting Traffic

Provided by: Mike W7MWF, Club Secretary

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1900 PDT by President Dave W7UUU.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Bob Jamison KE7WPK
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Quorum A quorum was seated. There were 12 names on the sign in roster

Silent Key or Illness Dave W7UUU reported that John Vickers W7JJV is RCT #2673 is hospitalized in serious condition.

Approval of Minutes of July 5, 2017 Board Meeting was accomplished.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual Correspondence; bank statements, utility bills, periodicals. Crawford Mountain correspondence.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported additional findings regarding application for Property Tax Exemption, and will continue research. All bills currently due have been paid.

Committee / Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reported current membership stands at 296, including a few lapsed members rejoining.

Training No Technician training until October
September 18 thru December 4 - Extra Class license theory course
Next VE Session August 8

Info Tech Mike W7MWF reported on behalf of Randy WB4SPB that all systems were operating within normal and expected parameters. Randy also requests that computers NOT be powered off, but that users simply log off and allow the computers to enter sleep mode. This will enable backup protocols to run successfully.

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that the new rotor and controller have been shipped from Poland via Canada. Hopefully, components will have been received, installed, configured, and tested in time for Salmon Run.

Repeater Ops Dave W7UUU reported receipt of multiple complaints regarding function of the147.28 repeater. The issues include the abrasive Roger Beep at the conclusion of each transmission, obnoxious interference of timed controller announcements during carrier-activated transmissions, and unpleasant audio distortion. Dave will compile info and send to Mike for distribution to and attention of the Repeater Committee.

Facilities Mgmt In general the facilities and grounds are in good shape. A replacement walk-thru door and jamb will be purchased and installed on the garage. Two sides of the garage still need repainting and a work party will be solicited at the next General Meeting on October 9.

Property Mgmt Red WB7EC reported receipt of several donations. Revenue from July Summer Sale has netted $1096. Red was congratulated on the hard work and inception of the ongoing sales strategy.

Library Doug AD7AV presented the committee's comprehensive semi-annual report of activities and goals. Doug also brought us up to date regarding archiving and historical issues and future plans. A copy of Doug's report is filed with these minutes.

Museum (KR7W) The work on the Eldico transmitter is still in progress. For a complete status report, see Rich's article in the July issue of The Loggers' Bark.

Weds Activity Night TBD – possibly Salmon Run preps and equipment familiarization

Unfinished Business

Dave W7UUU - Update on the Tacoma School District amateur radio installation project. At best, forward progress on the matter is hindered at present by bureaucratic and political logjams.

Rich KR7W had submitted a request for repair/rehabilitation of electricity distribution equipment. After much discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to authorize removal of the Federal Electric subpanel from the HF room and connecting those circuits to the main panel downstairs Also, other potential faults in grounding or wiring will be identified and if possible repaired or corrected.

It was subsequently moved, seconded, and passed to authorize up to $500 for initial funding to accomplish the electrical tasks.

It was noted that emergency power functions will still be available if necessary by running generator power with existing cabling and distribution boxes stored in the garage. At some point if it is deemed desirable to have a transfer panel installed, that will be considered.

Dave W7UUU advised that the Library facility is not available for the October 11 General Meeting. Dave will secure use of the Eagles Club hall located on South Tacoma Way for $150.

Dave W7UUU also stated that the Scottish Rite Temple has raised their rental rates to a prohibitive level. Dave recommends that we reserve the Eagles facility for our Annual Banquet to be held on December 10, 2017. Dave solicited input of other potential locations but if none were forthcoming would move forward to make arrangements as appropriate for the Eagles hall.

New Business

Salmon Run 2017 Event is September 16/17. Logistics for event include Fund Raising Drive, operations, and support functions. George K7GRS has previously indicated he would be able to again ramrod the pledge program. Mike W7MKE has offered to coordinate the fund drive (with help) if George is not available.

General Meeting Dave Sez "Jim Hadlock K7WA, Committee Chair for the Western Washington DX Club "Salmon Run" committee, will be our presenter for the August 9th General Meeting. He'll be covering the history of Salmon Run and what it's all about. Since this is our biggest fund raiser, I thought it would be interesting to have him come present about this fun event."

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Membership Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1930 by President Dave W7UUU at the Pierce County Library Administration Building.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike W7MKE

Welcome and Self-Introductions
Guests Present were Ron and Dennis
Self-introductions were completed. There were 29 names on the sign-in roster, which is filed with these minutes.

Health and Welfare
Silent Keys and Illness Dave W7UUU reported that John Vickers W7JJV RCT # 2673 seriously ill in hospital.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual stuff: periodicals, utility bills. Also received was the Crawford Mountain holdover lease documentation

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD gave an update on the financial condition of the club.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reported that membership stands on the cusp of 300.

Training No Tech classes July/August/September. Next Tech class will be held October 7/8. General Class license training Sept 18 through Dec 5 Monday Nights 7pm-9pm

VE Report Mike W7MWF read the VE report on behalf of John AC7WW. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes. The next VE Session will be held September 12, 2017

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that the new rotor and controller have been shipped (from Poland)

Repeater Ops Some complaints about roger beep, ID interrupts and audio quality

IT Report Randy WB4SPB reported that all systems are operating within normal and expected parameters. Randy also requested that computer users not power down computers but simply log off. This will permit automated backup processes to function.

Museum The Eldico still has some issues that are being investigated. Read all about it in the July issue of the Bark.

Facilities Mgmt New telephones installed in clubhouse – upstairs and downstairs.
New walk-in door for garage to be installed
Upgrade of power distribution and service panels planned.
W7MKE circulated a sign-up sheet for garage painting team.

Prop Mgmt Red WB7EC gave a sales report and discussed the success of summer long sale.

4th Weds Activity Night - Topic to be announced prior to event

New Business

Program Jim Hadlock K7WA, Committee Chair for the Western Washington DX Club "Salmon Run" committee gave an interesting program about Salmon Run.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

Annual Picnic will be held Sunday, August 20 from noon until 5 at Ft Steilacoom Park Shelter #3.

Salmon Run September 16/17 operating from the Clubhouse

October 11 General Meeting will be held at Eagles Club on So Tacoma Way. That is also the likely venue for our Annual Banquet in December.

Thank You letter from Ed WB8BHL from Florida, a recent visitor to the clubhouse.

Signup for shifts at upcoming State Fair. See the club website w7dk.org

Show and Tell

Tuning and Traffic

Door Prize The door prize was won by Patrick N7OSI

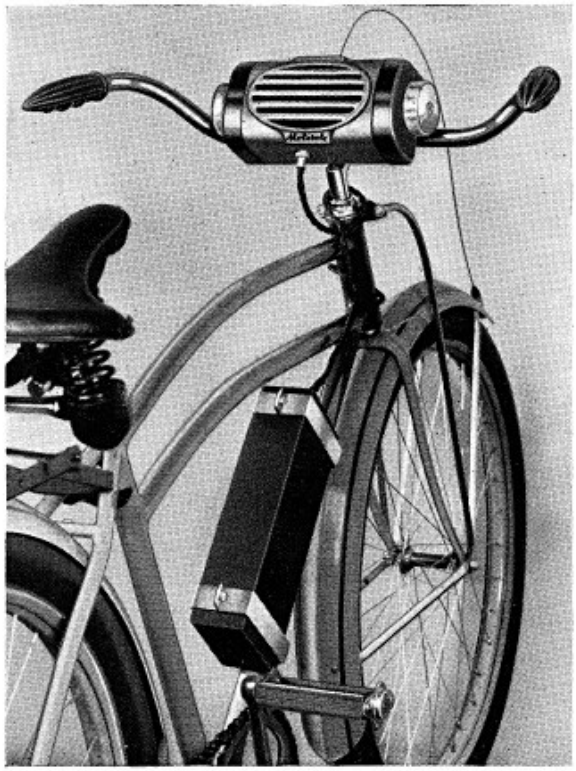
Raffle Prize The raffle prize was won by Jim W7OWI

Adjournment: at 2048 PDT

Submitted by Mike W7MWF Secretary.

1941 Motorola BIKE RADIO

Boy It's Keen



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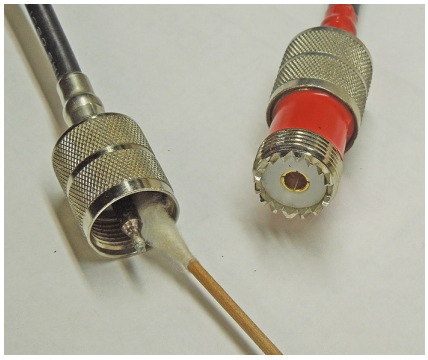
HINTS AND KINKS
CONSTRUCTION & INSTRUCTION
BY READER SUBMISSION

Let's not forget about Fall Wire Antenna Maintenance by… Rich KR7W

With only a couple of nice weeks (or weekends for non-retired folks) left of nice WX, it is important to check ham radio equipment that resides outside– our antennas.

But first… lets start inside– with your antenna analyzer. (Did you know? Club members can borrow the loaner MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer) Using the analyzer… sweep or test your antennas' SWR. If the antenna does not measure satisfactorily or like it was when you installed it… It's time to investigate. What does your antenna system consist of? Are there one or more PL-259 connections to corrode? How about wires that might be broken that you can not see from the ground? Did water get in but didn't get out? Perhaps your wire antenna simply fell down (rope or wire broke) on one end and it's gone unnoticed. These are all items that I've encountered at my QTH over the years.



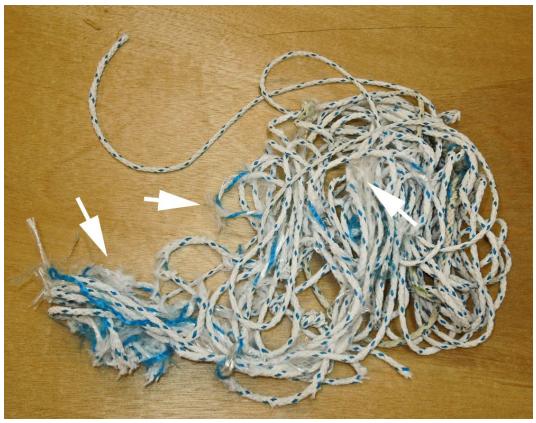
I've had good success with de-corroding PL-259/SO-239 connections with **De-Oxit** on a Q-Tip cotton swab. Take the connection apart, Dip the swab in **De-Oxit**, aggressively swab each metal surface including the pin socket in the SO-239 connector. I've used 4-0 steel wool holding with needle nose pliers to aggressively remove black corrosion… but all steel wool hairs must be carefully accounted for or there will be an unwanted SWR issue. Canned Air can be used remove pesky steel wool hairs.

I don't often tape up PL-259/SO-239 connections at my station as nothing is permanent here (if the water runs in then I want it to run out– not be trapped by tape) except for a Comet GP-9 144/440 antenna. This coax to coax connector is taped and sealed up with a product used in commercial radio: **Scotch Environmentally Sealing Mastic Tape**– which if applied correctly will absolutely keep water out. How I was taught: Make a good electrical connection– use DeOxit method above and make sure all threads are tight (no cross threading). Use Scotch 33 electrical tape as the first layer, but apply the tape with the sticky side facing out. This makes it easier to remove the all of the layers of protection you apply. Then wrap over the 33 tape with Mastic Tape starting at the lowest elevation point on the coax. As the wraps of mastic tape overlap– it will look like roof shingles where water runs down, not inside. Form the mastic tape

3M
Scotch™ 2228
Rubber Mastic Tape
Ruban en mastic de caoutchouc
Cinta de mastique ahulada
For Insulating and Environmental Sealing of Cables and Connectors
Pour l'isolation et l'imperméabilisation des câbles et des connecteurs
Para aislar y sellar cables y conexiones contra la intemperie
1 in. x 10 ft. x .065 in.
25,4 mm x 3 m x 1,65 mm
1 Roll Rouleau Rollo

with your fingers to firm it up… then add another layer of 33 electrical tape beginning at the top, wrapping downward. At the bottom then wrap back to the top– two layers. Use scissors or a knife to cut the tape– do not pull it to break it- as there's a chance it will not stick if stretched.

How's the rope holding up your wire antennas? Are you still using that temporary masons string or high fiber count nylon rope like I did? If so, it's best to replace it with a product made to be outside– not like the long term temporary rope I recently removed. High SWR on 17 and 20 Meters got me looking for antenna issues and found one leg of my fan dipole on the ground because the crappy rope fell apart. It was frizzled so bad in places that it wouldn't pull through the halyard pulley. The mast had to be lowered to clean out the pulley and thread the proper kind of rope through.



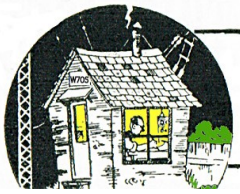
I confess– I was complacent using this temporary solution too long. Much energy was spent recovering.

I have been using the proper type of rope to hold up the apex of my Fan Dipole– Dacron/Polyester antenna rope. This rope has a high breaking strength and very resistant to UV light. There is useful info to be found on the KF7P website regarding this superb ham radio product. CLICK: http://www.kf7p.com/KF7P/Dacron_Rope.html KF7P as well as others vendors sell this product. I bought my last spool of Polyester rope from Amazon to support the big and heavy 40M Wire Yagi Antenna used at Field Day. 3/16" and 1/4" were used with success over the last 4 years. I've purchased antenna rope from Amazon.com and Quicksilver Radio and were pleased with both vendors. Ham Radio Outlet also sells polyester antenna rope.

CLICK kf7p link above for breaking strength specifications for each diameter.

I hope all Bark Readers spend some time in their hamshack this winter using their well performing antennas. ARRL SSB Sweepstakes contest is in the middle of November. Get Ready!

73, Rich KR7W



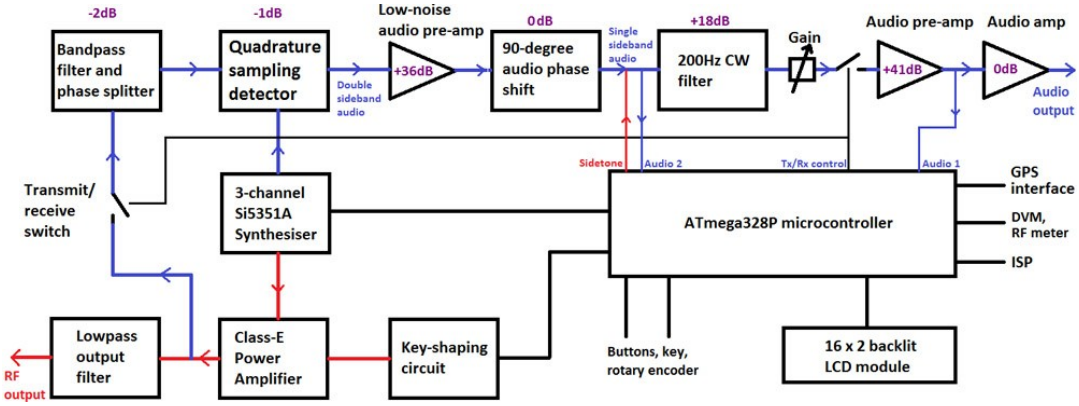
TNT THE NEW THING

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?

CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

Introducing… The $49 Amateur Transceiver (kit)

Mr Hans Summers of QRP Labs sells many interesting DIYer kits for Amateur Radio. Most are Arduino / micro-processor based. His latest offering is a single band, 80, 60, 40, 30, 20 or 17m— 5 watt output CW transceiver kit that most hams can build.



The block diagram from https://qrp-labs.com/qcx.html shows it to be a direct conversion SDR– pretty much like the Elecraft KX-3. This kit is what I'd call "nearly beginner" skill level. There's no surface mount components– all are through hole for you to solder.

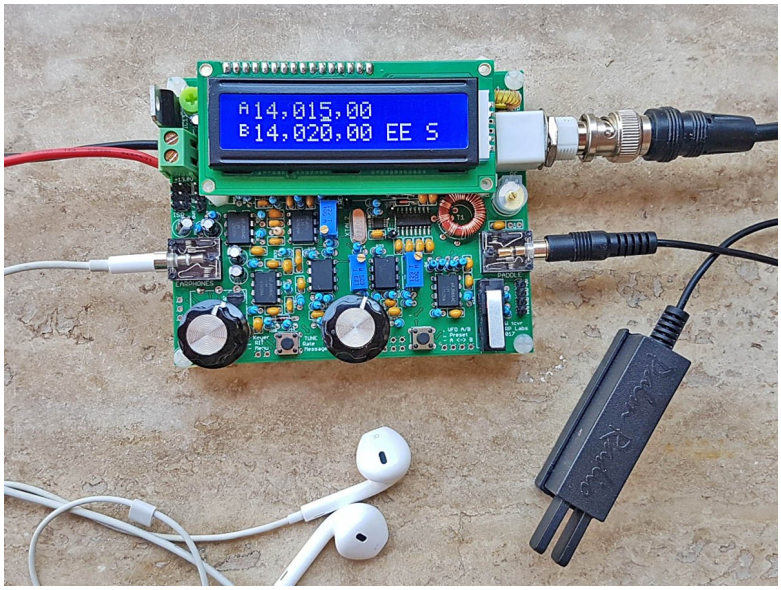
Let me guess what you are thinking Gentle Readers- - - This kit is not for me cuz it's a CW transceiver. I say, "But Wait!" It has a Morse Code Decoder on the display. With that and a programmed keyer chip– you can carry on contest or SOTA like QSOs with canned messages. There's a WSPR or CW Beacon feature for you to contribute to HF propagation studies.

Here's a few more hooks:

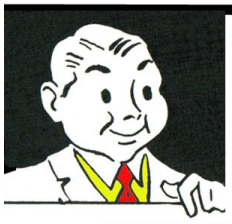
>Built in test equipment.
>GPS time interface for WSPR.
>LCD screen.
>Split operation.
>S-Meter.
>Google I.O. group for on-line support.
>Well documented assy guide.

Many more features are on the QRP-LABs website LINK.

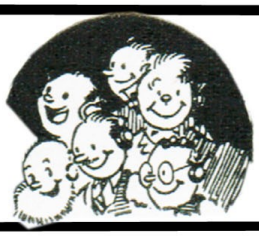
The only downside I see is that there is a huge back-order delay time to get yours. Give yourself a gift– order now to have for your holiday gift giving ritual.



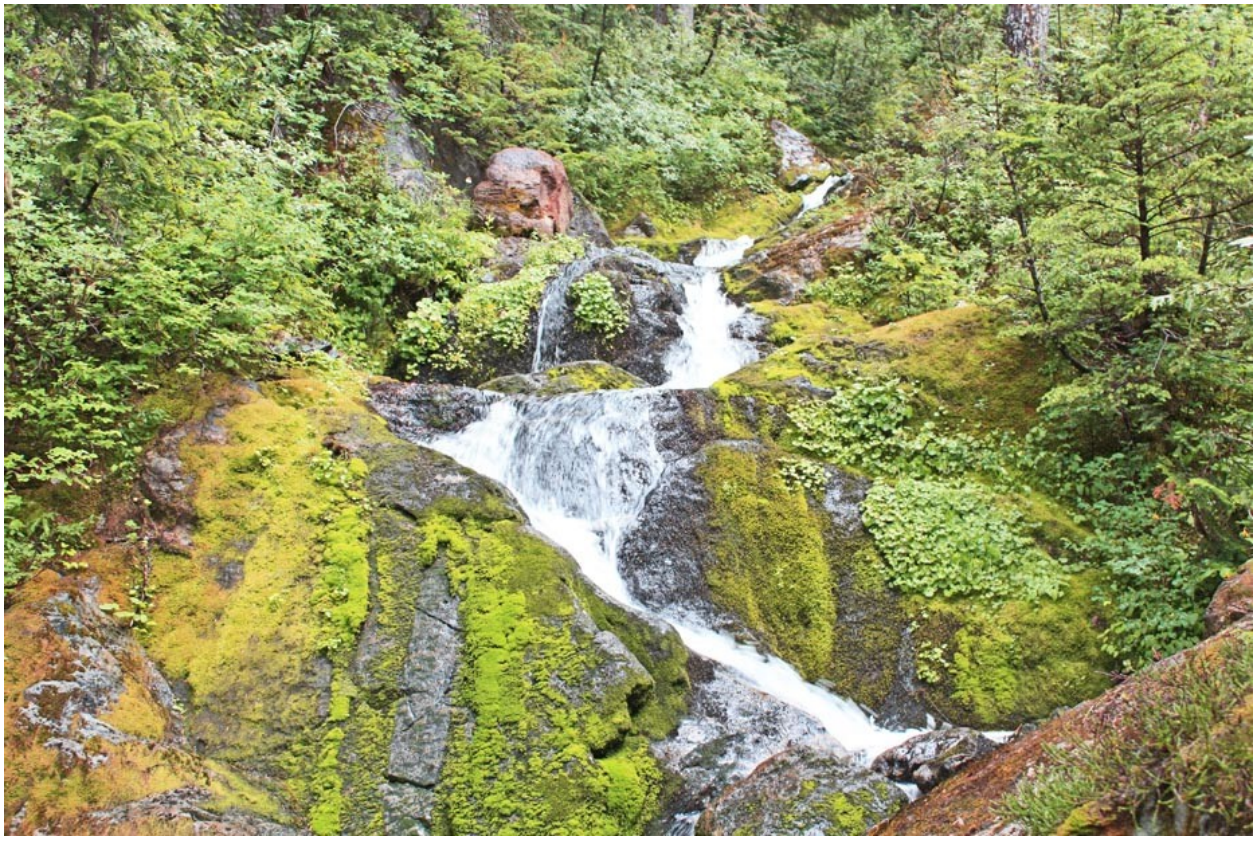
The QCX transceiver measures 4x3 inches. The black gizmo on the right is the Palm Mini-Morse paddle key.



The Logger's Bark Photo Page



Here's a little Non-Ham Radio artistic liberty taken by the Bark Editor.
All readers are encouraged to submit an image for this page, even if it is a ham radio photo.



Mt Rainier National Park, approx 5 miles NW of Longmire along the Wonderland Trail.
A freak change of weather brought cool air and rain to the west side of the park the night before and most of this day. A day of rain, even after 60 days of dry, sure makes the forest seem green.
Photo contributed by club member Pat, WT7N.

You've reached the end of the trail through this issue of the Sept. Bark. Thanks for taking the journey.

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

THE LOGGER'S BARK is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma:	147.280 + PL=103.5	
Crawford Mountain	147.380 + PL=103.5	(E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)
Central Tacoma:	440.625 + PL=103.5	
North Tacoma:	145.21 – PL=141.3	

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.